

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OSLO 00888 210147Z

43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 IGA-02 PM-04

NSC-05 SS-15 DODE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 AGR-05 CU-02 IO-11

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R 201102Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1165

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 0888

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, EFIN, EGEN, ZA, NO

SUBJ: ASSISTANCE TO ZAMBIA

REF: STATE 036980

1. EMBASSY DISCUSSED ASSISTANCE TO ZAMBIA WITH KNUT TARALDSET, SECTION CHIEF FOR DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE AT FOREIGN MINISTRY, AND LEIF VETLESEN, INFORMATION DIRECTOR OF THE NORWEGIAN AID AGENCY, NORAD.

2. TARALDSET STATED THAT ZAMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER BANDA IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED TO VISIT OSLO IN MARCH TO DISCUSS BILATERAL QUESTIONS, ESPECIALLY DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE. BANDA ORIGINALLY WAS SCHEDULED TO VISIT NORWAY IN JANUARY BUT CANCELLED BECAUSE OF THE OAU SUMMIT. THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPTS TO RESCHEDULE THE VISIT SINCE THN. THE NORWEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS NOW SUGGESTED MARCH 8-9 AND IS AWAITING A REPLY FROM BANDA. NEITHER
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PAGE 02 OSLO 00888 210147Z

TARALDSET NOR BETLESEN KNOW OF ANY PLANNED VISIT BY

ZAMBIAN FINANCE MINISTER WALUSIKU OR CENTRAL BANK
GOVERNOR KUWANI.

3. IN NORWAY'S AID PROGRAM, ZAMBIA IS A "PARTNER COUNTRY",
AND ONE OF THE SEVEN CHIEF RECIPIENTS OF DEVELOPMENT
ASSISTANCE. ANY SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE IN NORWEGIAN ASSIST-
ANCE TO A PARTNER COUNTRY MUST RECEIVE PARLIAMENTARY
APPROVAL. NORWAY AND ZAMBIA HAVE SIGNED A LONG TERM
PROGRAM FOR DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE. NORWEGIAN AID FOR
1976 IS 20 MILLION NORWEGIAN KRONER (\$1 EQUALS 5.5 NKR) AND
73 NORWEGIAN EXPERTS ARE SERVING IN ZAMBIA. PREVIOUSLY
MOST NORWEGIAN ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN IN THE EDUCATIONAL
SECTOR, MOSTLY IN COOPERATION WITH THE IBRD. 1976
ASSISTANCE WILL BE DIVIDED BETWEEN TECHNICAL AND PROJECT
ASSISTANCE IN THE EDUCATIONAL, TRANSPORT, AND AGRICULTURAL
SECTORS. THIS ASSISTANCE WILL BE COORDINATED WITH THE
DEVELOPMENT BANK OF ZAMBIA.

4. NORWEGIAN OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF USG DESIRE TO
HELP ZAMBIA AND THEY PROMISED TO GIVE FURTHER AID TO ZAMBIA
CLOSE CONSIDERATION.

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH NORWAY REMAINS SYMPATHETIC TO
ZAMBIA'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN
SOUTHERN AFRICAN POLITICS, THE MINISTRY IS DISAPPOINTED
OVER WHAT THEY CALL THE INEFFECTIVE ADMINISTRATION OF
NORWEGIAN AID. TARALDSET CALLED ZAMBIA THE MOST DIFFICULT
OF NORWAY'S PARTNER COUNTRIES AND MENTIONED THE TWO YEARS
IT TOOK TO REACH AN AGREEMENT FOR THE UTILIZATION OF
NORWEGIAN ASSISTANCE. NORWAY WILL CONTINUE TO EXTEND AID
TO ZAMBIA. HOWEVER, ALL INDICATIONS POINT TO THIS ASSIST-
ANCE LEVELING OFF AT 20 MILLION NKR OR SLIGHTLY MORE IN
THE NEXT FEW YEARS, WHILE THE REST OF THE ASSISTANCE
BUDGET RISES BY OVER 50 PERCENT IN 1978. ZAMBIA IS ALSO THE
POOREST OF NORWAY'S MAIN PARTNER COUNTRIES IN TERMS OF
PER CAPITA INCOME AND IS NOT ON THE UN'S MSA NATION
LIST.

6. IF INCREASED ASSISTANCE IS TO BE CONSIDERED, ZAMBIAN
OFFICIALS MUST CONVINCE NORWAY THAT ASSISTANCE WILL BE
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PAGE 03 OSLO 00888 210147Z

MUCH MORE EFFECTIVELY ADMINISTERED. A VISIT BY FOREIGN
MINISTER BANDA BEFORE MID-MARCH WOULD BE TIMELY, SINCE
THE PARLIAMENT (STORTING) WILL THEN BE CONSIDERING THE
DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE BUDGET.
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